

DON'T STOP THIS TRAIN

Bart's plans to reach San Francisco International Airport by the year 2000 have run into two potentially significant adversaries in the nation's capital. One is the airline industry, which has been concerned that the airport might try to raise landing fees or slap on a ticket surcharge to cover its \$200 million share.

Although the airline industry carries clout on Capitol Hill, we are confident that Congress will not be swayed by a selfish pitch against a project of such importance. Besides, the industry may eventually realize that this huge step in convenience to its passengers is well worth a relatively modest investment.

A more unsettling development is the effort of a handful of peninsula naysayers to resurrect the battle they clearly lost at the local level. Their testimony before the House Appropriations Transportation subcommittee last week may have given some legislators the impression that the Bay Area is still debating how to best provide mass-transit service to the airport.

And Congress may be reluctant to commit \$700 million when the issue remains unsettled.

Well, the matter is settled.

After years of torturous deliberation, there now is an overwhelming consensus on a plan that would put a BART station just outside the International Terminal. It would get at least half the passengers within a five-minute walk to a ticket counter and it would have a light-rail connection to other terminals. It is a good compromise.

It's time to get on with it. Opponents of the airport BART station are living in a dream world if they think that derailing the project will suddenly lead Congress to shift the money over to Cal-Train. The proposed \$87 million fiscal 1997 federal contribution to the BART project would almost surely be scooped up by another legislator for another region.

We trust that the subcommittee members, having seen the strong support of six Bay Area members of Congress, will realize that the fighting is finished. This train is on the move.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREEK AMERICAN MONTHLY

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The Greek American Monthly on the occasion of the first anniversary of this outstanding publication, and to congratulate my colleague from southwestern Pennsylvania, Congressman RON KLINK, who has been awarded The Greek American Monthly's first annual Hermes Award.

The Greek American Monthly is a periodical dedicated to promoting, preserving, and perpetuating Greek culture, history, and heritage. It also serves as a timely source of information on issues of importance to people of Greek ancestry throughout the world. I am proud to say that The Greek American Monthly is based in Pittsburgh, PA, which is part of my congressional district.

The Greek American Monthly has accomplished a great deal in its first year. In just 1 short year its readership has grown from 2,000 to nearly 30,000, and it has attracted readers from all over the world. It is linking

members of the Greek community around the world in a new way. Its focus on content has resulted in a journal filled with important world news and cultural events from around the globe. I anticipate only continued and greater success for The Greek American Monthly in the future as more and more members of the Greek community—and other people in the United States and abroad—become acquainted with this excellent publication. The publisher and staff have produced an outstanding publication.

I also want to congratulate Congressman RON KLINK, who has been awarded The Greek American Monthly's first annual Hermes Award for his promotion of Greek culture and of issues of interest to the Greek-American community. Congressman KLINK, who has Greek forebearers, was chosen for the Hermes Award because he has introduced legislation of great interest to the Greek-American community, and because he has been tireless in his advocacy for issues before Congress that are important to the Greek-American community—issues like the partition of Cyprus and the treatment of ethnic Greeks in Albania.

In closing, I want to congratulate Mr. Gregory C. Pappas, editor and publisher of The Greek American Monthly, and the staff of this fine publication on the first anniversary of its founding, and I want to commend them for selecting Congressman RON KLINK as the first recipient of The Greek American Monthly's annual Hermes Award.

MARIETTA'S "MIRACLE"

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my fellow colleagues to read the following editorial from the Marietta Daily Journal which describes the wonderful opportunities Habitat for Humanity has offered many of my constituents. I have volunteered for Habitat in my district and can attest that it is a very rewarding experience to see future homeowners alongside public-spirited citizens. Furthermore, it is a program that combines prayer with practical help.

American-style volunteerism is proven every day by those noble individuals who are willing to give their time to make others' lives better. In the American tradition of volunteerism and charity, I would encourage all of my friends and colleagues in the House to get involved with Habitat in their own communities, as well.

[From the Marietta Daily Journal, Feb. 28, 1996]

MARIETTA'S "MIRACLE"

Many people lament the plight of the homeless, but leave to others the hard work of housing the less fortunate. Not so those involved with Habitat for Humanity.

Since the establishment of its first Cobb County branch in 1986, Cobb Habitat has built or rehabilitated 54 homes: 22 in Power Springs, 16 in Marietta, nine in Acworth, four in Kennesaw, two in Smyrna and one in Austell.

Now the group is in the process of acquiring 11 properties in one of Cobb's most drug- and crime-ridden neighborhoods. The project has been christened "The Marietta Miracle: Roosevelt Circle Renewal," and is focused on

the Roosevelt area, where drug dealers, prostitutes and vacant houses have blighted what was once a fairly typical working-class community and where law-abiding residents sometimes are afraid to leave their houses.

The targeted properties consist of a variety of vacant lots and dilapidated duplexes. Habitat will buy the properties, refurbish the duplexes and build single-family homes on the vacant lots. The upshot is that when the project is complete, up to 18 families will have new homes.

As with all Habitat projects, the new owners will be picked from a pool of qualified families based on need, their willingness to work in a partnership and their ability to repay the 15-year loans used to finance a house. Only those with incomes are considered as prospective owners. Those chosen also must undergo a rigorous interview process and put in 300 hours of "sweat equity" on Habitat construction projects.

"It'll be a big leap of faith for the families that will move into the homes," said Craig Satterlee, Cobb Habitat's executive director. "Our mission is to eliminate poverty housing in Cobb by building new homes and rehabilitating existing homes. There is no place more in need than Roosevelt Circle."

The project is expected to cost \$730,000, of which \$400,000 already has been pledged by local churches and businesses, including eight Catholic churches, St. Catherine's Episcopal, St. James Episcopal, Home Depot, Crawford & Co., the Cobb Board of Realtors, and students at Kennesaw State College.

"Far more important than the economics is the spirit of giving of yourselves. That's what makes a good community," said U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-east Cobb, at Saturday's kickoff for the "Marietta Miracle" at First Baptist Church of Marietta. "Habitat doesn't give to the poor—it involves the poor in creating a better life for themselves."

And as Marietta Ward 5 Councilman James Dodd put it: "Other people in the [Roosevelt Circle] community will see these homes and will use them as a model to upgrade theirs."

Hopefully, the Habitat project will have a ripple effect in the community, as its others have so many times before. And hopefully, those ripples will continue to widen.

CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE ACT OF 1996

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Citizen Representative Act of 1996.

For years, it has been widely recognized that deep flaws and gaping loopholes in the way campaigns are paid for in America have amplified the importance of well-heeled special interest groups, reduced the clout of small individual contributors, and favored wealthy candidates while effectively silencing the voices of citizens unable to raise the large sums of money needed to mount a campaign for Congress.

Citizens across the country and many here in Congress understand that our system for financing campaigns in this country is broken and needs to be fixed. Skyrocketing campaign costs discourage everyday Americans from running for public office. Small, individual campaign contributions are crowded out by big money contributions from political action committees [PAC's]